

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

10/663,668

Applicant(s)

YAMAMOTO ET AL.

Examiner

Ha D. Ho

Art Unit

3681

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to Amendment filed 3/10/05.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-3,6-13 and 16-20.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 17 September 2003 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying Indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☐ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

EXAMINER'S STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

1. This Office Action is responsive to Applicant's Amendment filed on 03/10/05. Claims 1-3, 6-11, 16 and 17 have been amended, and claims 4, 5, 14, and 15 have been canceled accordingly.
2. Claims 1-3, 6-13 and 16-20 are allowed.
3. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter:

Claims 1 and 11 have been amended to include the indicated allowable subject matter of claims 5 and 15, respectively, and all the limitations of the intervening claims.

The prior art of record does not disclose or render obvious a motivation to provide for an output shaft locking device/method in a transmission having a plurality of rotational mechanism provided in parallel between input and output shafts, each of the rotational mechanisms being formed by arranging a clutch and a shifting mechanism in series as defined by the limitations of claims 1 and 11, including a locking control device for locking the output shaft by engaging a shifting gear in each of the shifting mechanisms of at least two of the rotational mechanisms and engaging the clutches of the rotational mechanisms having the shifting gear engaged by the locking control device, wherein the output shaft can be locked when the rotational power source is not being transmitted to the input shaft and the vehicle is not running.

According to Schamscha'668, for producing a parking lock, two gears of the second transmission input shaft 12 (i.e., G2, G4, G6) can be engaged simultaneously by the clutches 10b and 10d. Therefore, to Schamscha'668 fails to show a locking control device for locking an output shaft by engaging a shifting gear in each of shifting mechanisms of at least two of rotational mechanisms and engaging clutches of the rotational mechanisms having the shifting gear engaged by the locking control device, wherein the rotational mechanism are provided in parallel between

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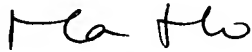
input and output shafts, and each of the rotational mechanism is formed by arranging the clutch and the shifting mechanism in series. One might have the interpretation as set forth in the 12/10/04 Office Action including the clutch 14 being engaged. As the clutch 14 being engaged, the rotational power source is transmitted to the input shaft 12 while the claims require the output shaft is locked when the predetermined conditions are satisfied which includes a condition that the rotational power source is not transmitted to the input shaft.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ha D. Ho whose telephone number is 571-272-7091. If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Charles Marmor can be reached on 571-272-7095.

5. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

HDH
(703) 305-0738
April 29, 2005


HAHO
PRIMARY EXAMINER
Art Unit 3681 4/29/05